

Programme of Lectures (2nd Term)

Date	Lecturer	Subject
5th September, '61	<i>Snelling, Q.C.</i>	History of the Bar of England
12th September, '61	<i>Snelling, Q.C.</i>	History of the Bar of New South Wales
19th September, '61	<i>Riley, Q.C.</i>	Etiquette
26th September, '61	<i>Rath, Q.C.</i>	How to Use a Library
3rd October, '61	<i>Riley, Q.C.</i>	Etiquette
10th October, '61	<i>Langsworth, Q.C.</i>	Practical Proofs in an Accident Case
17th October, '61	<i>Shannon, Q.C.</i>	How to Conduct a Case Before a Jury
24th October, '61	<i>Smyth, Q.C.</i>	The Art of Cross-Examination
31st October, '61	<i>Reynolds, Q.C.</i>	Cross-Examination on Documents
7th November, '61	<i>Davoren, Q.C.</i>	The Conduct of a Quarter Sessions Trial
14th November, '61	<i>Mason, A. F.</i>	Court Procedure in Equity

Counsel's Chambers Limited and the Bar Association

The history of the building of Wentworth Chambers was told by *Snelling* Q.C. in the lecture which he gave to newly admitted members of the Bar on 9th May, 1961, and is noted in the June issue of the Gazette. One omission from the lecture was any reference to the fact that in 1956 Counsel's Chambers Limited bought Selborne Chambers, and to aid the purchase, increased its capital to £575,000. The object of the purchase was twofold—partly to ensure that members of the Bar housed in Selborne would not be dispossessed and partly to provide a site for a new building similar in accommodation to Wentworth Chambers when the situation required it.

Shortly after the completion of Wentworth Chambers, discussions were opened between the State and Federal Governments concerning the possibility of erecting adjacent Court premises for the State Supreme Court and the various Federal Courts which sit in Sydney, on a site fronting Phillip Street (including the site of Denman Chambers), King Street and Macquarie Street (including the site of the State Crown Solicitor's office). This proposal has now progressed so far that the Commonwealth has in the last couple of months purchased Denman Chambers and negotiations by the State Government for the purchase of the Queen's Club are far advanced.

These negotiations and discussions made the rebuilding of Selborne Chambers a matter of urgency, and the Board of Counsel's Chambers Limited has for some time been engaged on the preliminary planning of a new building. They also made a reconstruction of the capital structure a necessity as more capital would be required to finance the new building. Furthermore, as the value of shares in the company had increased to the vicinity of £1,500, steps had to be taken to ensure that the position of existing shareholders was not prejudiced and that all shareholders were placed in a position of parity. At the same time, the Board had to bear in mind the desirability of ensuring that the Bar as a whole, as contrasted with the shareholders, had the ultimate beneficial interest (subject to the pegged capital value of the shares) in the assets of the company.

The Board therefore evolved a scheme which extinguished the uncalled liability of £500 on the issued shares and then increased the value of the issued shares to £1,500; created additional shares of £1,500 each, and gave to the signatory shares (which have been transferred to the Bar Association) voting rights which in effect give it an interest in any dividends which might be declared by the Directors, and control of proposals for winding up and for amending the articles.

This scheme was submitted to the Bar Council for consideration before submission to the shareholders, and the Council, being of the unanimous opinion that the suggestions of the Company would be most advantageous to the Bar, accepted the proposals with gratitude.

The amendments to the Company's structure were submitted to a widely attended Extraordinary General Meeting of shareholders on 29th September, 1961, and were carried with very few dissentients.

It is understood that the proposed new building will be substantially a mirror-image of Wentworth Chambers. It will interest members of the Association to know that in the new building, provision will be made for the Association to occupy about three-quarters of the combined basement area, which will be fully air-conditioned and will include a separate library, a lounge room, a dining room, and proper office accommodation for the Bar Association and the Company, including a Board Room. The lounge room and dining room will be so designed that they can be thrown together when they will form a hall capable of seating 300 to 400 persons and of use for almost all Bar functions.

During the rebuilding period, the tenants of Selborne Chambers will be housed in the old Queen's Club Building. The time of evacuating Selborne has not been finally determined but will be either during the Long Vacation or at Easter 1962.

The shareholders' meeting of 29th September, marks a most significant step forward, not only in the affairs of the Company, but in the history of the New South Wales Bar.